

Message Text

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TAGS: MNUC FR SF
SUBJ: FRENCH ANNOUNCEMENTS CONCERNING SOUTH AFRICAN
NUCLEAR EXPLOSION CAPABILITY

1. AT 1340 PARIS TIME AUG 22, FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER
GUIRINGAUD GAVE A RADIO INTERVIEW TO FRANCE-INTER
CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF SOUTH AFRICAN PREPARATIONS
FOR AN ATOMIC EXPLOSION. BELOW IS THE AFP REPORT OF
GUIRINGAUD'S REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT.

"DECLARATION DU MINISTRE FRANCAIS DES AFFAIRES
ETRANGERES
PARIS 22 AOUT (AFP).

"LA FRANCE A LANCE LUNDI UN AVERTISSEMENT A
L'AFRIQUE DU SUD LA METTANT EN GARDE CONTRE TOUTE
EXPERIMENTATION NUCLEAIRE.
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"LE MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES, M. LOUIS
DE GUIRINGAUD, A PRECISE A 'FRANCE-INTER': 'NOUS
AVONS EU DES RENSEIGNEMENTS SELON LESQUELS IL Y AVAIT
EN AFRIQUE DU SUD DES PREPARATIFS EN VUE D'UNE
EXPLOSION ATOMIQUE, QUE LES SUD-AFRICAINS AFFIRMENT
DEVOIR ETRE PACIFIQUE.'

"APRES AVOIR REMARQUE QUE L'ON 'NE POUVAIT FAIRE DE DIFFERENCE ENTRE UNE EXPLOSION ATOMIQUE PACIFIQUE ET UNE EXPLOSION A DES FINS D'EXPERIMENTATION NUCLEAIRE', LE MINISTRE A AJOUTE: 'NOUS AVONS PREVENUE L'AFRIQUE DU SUD QUE NOUS CONSIDERERIONS UNE TELLE EXPLOSION COMME METTANT EN DANGER TOUS LES PROCESSUS DE PAIX QUI SONT ENGAGES EN AFRIQUE AUSTRALE, ET COMME POUVANT AVOIR DES CONSEQUENCES GRAVES AVEC NOS DEUX PAYS'.

"LA FRANCE, RAPPELLE-T-ON, A SIGNE UN CONTRAT DE FOURNITURE DE DEUX CENTRALES ELECTRO-NUCLEAIRES A L'AFRIQUE DU SUD. L'AGENCE TASS AVAIT ACCUSE PARIS A DEUX REPRISES DANS LA PREMIERE QUINZAINE D'AOUT EN AFFIRMANT QUE, GRACE A CE CONTRAT, L'AFRIQUE DU SUD ALLAIT PRODUIRE DU PLUTONIUM ET 'FABRIQUER PLUS DE CENT BOMBES ATOMIQUES D'ICI UN AN'.

"M. DE GUIRINGAUD AVAIT REAGI VIVEMENT A CES ACCUSATIONS ET LA FRANCE AVAIT FAIT DES DEMARCHES A CE SUJET AUPRES DES AUTORITES SOVIETIQUES.

"LE CHEF DE LA DIPLOMATIE FRANCAISE A RAPPELLE AU COURS DE SA DECLARATION DE LUNDI, QU'AUX TERMES DU CONTRAT PASSE AVEC L'AFRIQUE DU SUD 'LE RETRAITEMENT

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DES COMBUSTIBLES IRRADIES AURA LIEU EN FRANCE, ET QUE LE PLUTONIUM NE SERA PAS RENVOYE EN AFRIQUE DU SUD'. LE PLUTONIUM, RAPPELLE-T-ON, EST ESSENTIEL A LA CONSTRUCTION D'UNE BOMBE ATOMIQUE.

"IL EST PARFAITEMENT MALHONNETE, A-T-IL AJOUTE, DE DIRE QUE CES CENTRALES POURRONT AIDER L'AFRIQUE DU SUD A ACQUERIR L'ARME ATOMIQUE. IL SE TROUVE MALHEUREUSEMENT MEME DES FRANCAIS POUR L'AFFIRMER: ILS MENTENT, ET ILS SE CONDUISENT, J'ESPERE INCONSCIENMMENT, EN AGENTS DE L'ETRANGER'.

"EVOQUANT LA CONFERENCE DE L'ONU SUR L'APARTHEID, REUNIE A LAGOS, M. DE GUIRINGAUD A PREVU QUE LA FRANCE Y SERAIT 'SUREMENT ATTAQUEE' POUR LE CONTRAT NUCLEAIRE ET LES VENTES D'ARMES A L'AFRIQUE DU SUD. CELLES CI ONT

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PRIS FIN, A-T-IL RAPPELLE, A L'AUTOMNE 1976, A LA SUITE
DE L'EMBARGO DECIDE PAR LE CHEF DE L'ETAT, M. VALERY
GISCARD D'ESTAING. 'LA DELEGATION FRANCAISE REpondra A
CES ATTAQUES DE MANIERE APPROPRIEE', A-T-IL AJOUTE."

2. FOLLOWING IS AN AFP STORY CONCERNING STATEMENTS BY
THE QUAI SPOKESMAN ON AUG 22 ABOUT A FRENCH DEMARCHE
TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC ON NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS.

"LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS A EFFECTUE UNE DEMARCHE
AUPRES DE L'AFRIQUE DU SUD, A LA SUITE 'D'INDICATIONS
PLUS PRECISES' CONCERNANT LES INTENTIONS DE CE PAYS DE
FABRIQUER DES BOMBES ATOMIQUES, INTENTIONS
MENTIONNEES DANS UNE DECLARATION DE L'AGENCE TASS LE
9 AOUT DERNIER.

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"LE PORTE PAROLE DU QUAI D'ORSAY A DECLARE
LUNDI A CE SUJET: 'DEPUIS CETTE DECLARATION, NOUS
AVONS RECU DES INDICATIONS PLUS PRECISES QUI ONT ACCRU

NOS APPREHENSIONS: CE QUI NOUS A CONDUITS A EFFECTUER
UNE DEMARCHE AUPRES DE L'AFRIQUE DU SUD, LE 18 AOUT
DERNIER. NOUS AVONS INFORME DE CETTE DEMARCHE LES
GOUVERNEMENTS AMERICAIN ET SOVIETIQUE.

"INTERROGE AU SUJET DU DEMENTI CATEGORIQUE
OPPOSE PAR M. PICK BOTHA, MINISTRE DES AFFAIRES
ETRANGERES DE L'AFRIQUE DU SUD, QUALIFIANT DE 'DENUE DE
FONDEMENT' LES INFORMATIONS SELON LESQUELLES L'AFRIQUE
DU SUD PROCEDERAIT A UNE EXPLOSION NUCLEAIRE LE PORTE
PAROLE DU QUAI D'ORSAY AJOUTE: 'LA DECLARATION DE
M. BOTHA EST A L'ETUDE. MAIS JE REPETE QUE SI
L'AFRIQUE DU SUD PROCEDE A UNE EXPLOSION NUCLEAIRE,
METTANT A EXECUTION LE PROJET QU'ON LUI PRETE, LA
FRANCE LA CONDAMNERA ET TIRERA TOUTES LES
CONSEQUENCES DE CETTE CONDAMNATION.'

"LE 9 AOUT DERNIER LE PORTE PAROLE DU QUAI
D'ORSAY AVAIT DECLARE AU SUJET DE LA DECLARATION DE
L'AGENCE TASS, PRETANT AU GOUVERNEMENT DE L'AFRIQUE DU
SUD L'INTENTION DE FABRIQUER CENT BOMBES ATOMIQUES:
'LE GOUVERNEMENT FRANCAIS ESPERE QUE LA REPUBLIQUE SUD
AFRICAINNE D NE S'ENGAGERA PAS DANS UNE VOIE QUE NE
POURRAIT CONDUIRE QU'A L'AGGRAVATION DE LA
SITUATION EN AFRIQUE AUSTRALE.'

"SI L'AFRIQUE DU SUD METTAIT A EXECUTION LES
INTENTIONS QU'ON LUI PRETE, AVAIT AJOUTE LE PORTE
PAROLE LA FRANCE NE POURRAIT QUE CONDAMNER UNE TELLE
INITIATIVE QUI COMPROMETTRAIT GRAVEMENT LES EFFORTS
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DE TOUS CEUX QUI N'ACCEPTANT NI L'APARTHEID, NI
LA DISCRIMINATION RACIALE S'EMPLOIENT A FAVORISER UNE
SOLUTION PACIFIQUE DES PROBLEMES DE L'AFRIQUE
AUSTRALE, SOLUTION FONDEE SUR LE RESPECT DES
INTERETS ET DROITS LEGITIMES DE TOUS."

3. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF AFP ARTICLE
QUOTED PARA 1.

"ON MONDAY FRANCE LAUNCHED A WARNING TO SOUTH
AFRICA AGAINST ANY NUCLEAR TESTING.

"THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. LOUIS DE
GUIRINGAUD, SAID TO "FRANCE-INTER", 'WE HAVE INFORMATION
THAT THERE WERE PREPARATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA FOR AN
ATOMIC EXPLOSION, WHICH THE SOUTH AFRICANS AFFIRMED
WOULD BE PEACEFUL.'

"AFTER HAVING SAID THAT ONE 'CANNOT MAKE A
DISTINCTION BETWEEN A PEACEFUL ATOMIC EXPLOSION AND AN
EXPLOSION FOR NUCLEAR TESTING', THE MINISTER ADDED:
'WE HAVE WARNED SOUTH AFRICA THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER
SUCH AN EXPLOSION AS PUTTING IN DANGER ALL THE PEACE
MOVES WHICH ARE UNDER WAY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND AS
POSSIBLY HAVING GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR TWO
COUNTRIES.'

"FRANCE, ONE RECALLS, SIGNED A CONTRACT TO
FURNISH TWO NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.
TASS NEWS AGENCY ACCUSED PARIS TWICE DURING THE FIRST
TWO WEEKS OF AUGUST CLAIMING THAT, THANKS TO THIS
CONTRACT, SOUTH AFRICA WAS GOING TO PRODUCE PLUTONIUM
AND 'MAKE MORE THAN A HUNDRED ATOMIC BOMBS BY A YEAR
FROM NOW.'

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"MR. DE GUIRINGAUD REACTED STRONGLY TO THESE ACCUSATIONS AND FRANCE MADE APPROACHES ON THIS MATTER TO THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES.

"THE HEAD OF FRENCH DIPLOMACY RECALLED IN HIS MONDAY STATEMENT, THAT UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONTRACT WITH SOUTH AFRICA, 'THE REPROCESSING OF IRRADIATED FUEL WILL TAKE PLACE IN FRANCE AND THE PLUTONIUM WILL NOT BE SENT BACK TO SOUTH AFRICA.' PLUTONIUM, ONE NOTES, IS ESSENTIAL TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN ATOMIC BOMB.

"'IT IS COMPLETELY DISHONEST,' HE ADDED, 'TO SAY THAT THESE POWER PLANTS CAN HELP SOUTH AFRICA TO UNCLASSIFIED

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ACQUIRE ATOMIC ARMS. THERE ARE, UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN FRENCHMEN WHO STATE THIS; THEY LIE, AND THEY CONDUCT THEMSELVES, UNCONSCIOUSLY I HOPE, AS FOREIGN AGENTS.'

"RAISING THE UN CONFERENCE ON APARTHEID, MEETING IN LAGOS, MR. DE GUIRINGAUD FORESAW THAT FRANCE WOULD 'SURELY BE ATTACKED' THERE FOR THE NUCLEAR CONTRACT AND ARMS SALES TO SOUTH AFRICA. THESE ENDED, HE RECALLED, DURING THE AUTUMN OF 1976 AS A RESULT OF THE EMBARGO DECIDED ON BY THE HEAD OF STATE, MR. VALERY GISCARD D'ESTAING. 'THE FRENCH DELEGATION WILL REPLY TO THESE ATTACKS IN AN APPROPRIATE MANNER' HE ADDED.

4. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF AFP STORY QUOTED PARA 2.

"THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT MADE A DEMARCHE TO SOUTH AFRICA FOLLOWING 'VERY PRECISE INDICATIONS' CONCERNING THE INTENTIONS OF THAT COUNTRY TO MAKE ATOMIC BOMBS, INTENTIONS MENTIONED IN A STATEMENT BY TASS NEWS AGENCY LAST AUGUST 9.

"THE SPOKESMAN OF THE QUAI D'ORSAY SAID MONDAY ON THIS SUBJECT: 'SINCE THAT STATEMENT WE HAVE RECEIVED MORE PRECISE INDICATIONS WHICH HAVE INCREASED OUR APPREHENSION; WHICH INDUCED US TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO SOUTH AFRICA AUGUST 18. WE INFORMED THE AMERICAN AND SOVIET GOVERNMENTS OF THIS

DEMARCHE.

"QUESTIONED ABOUT THE CATEGORIC DENIAL MADE BY
MR. PICK BOTHA, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF SOUTH
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AFRICA, QUALIFYING AS 'COMPLETELY WITHOUT
FOUNDATION' REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD PROCEED TO
A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION, THE QUAI SPOKESMAN ADDED, 'MR.
BOTHA'S STATEMENT IS UNDER STUDY. BUT I REPEAT THAT
IF SOUTH AFRICA PROCEEDS TO A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION,
PUTTING INTO EXECUTION THE PLAN WHICH IS ATTRIBUTED
TO IT, FRANCE WILL CONDEMN THE TEST AND WOULD ACT IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THIS CONDEMNATION.'

"ON AUGUST 9 THE QUAI SPOKESMAN SAID CONCERNING
THE TASS REPORT ATTRIBUTING TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN
GOVERNMENT THE INTENTION OF MAKING A HUNDRED ATOMIC
BOMBS: 'THE GRENCH GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ENGAGE
ITSELF IN A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH COULD ONLY LEAD TO
THE AGGRAVATION OF THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.'

"'IF SOUTH AFRICA PUTS INTO EFFECT THE
INTENTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO IT,' THE
SPOKESMAN ADDED, 'FRANCE CONDEMNS SUCH AN INITIATIVE
WHICH WOULD GRAVELY COMPROMISE THE EFFORTS OF ALL
THOSE WHO, ACCEPTING NEITHER APARTHEID NOR
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, ARE WORKING TO FAVOR A
PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA,
A SOLUTION BASED ON THE RESPECT OF THE LEGITIMATE
INTERESTS AND RIGHTS OF ALL.'"
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